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REMARKS

Claims 1 through 11 are pending in the application. Claims 12 through 18 were cancelled within the Office Action of August 27, 2003.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the most helpful teleconference granted by the Examiner in November.

Claim 1 has accordingly been amended to emphasize that the films of the invention are biaxially oriented. Support for this amendment can be found in the application as filed, for example on Page 17, last paragraph, first and second sentences.

Claim 1 has further been amended to recite that the yellowness index is measured in accordance with DIN 6167, as requested by the Examiner. Support for amended Claim 1 can be found in the application as filed, for example on Page 20, third paragraph in its entirety.

Applicants respectfully submit that this response does not raise new issues, but merely places the above-referenced application either in condition for allowance, or alternatively, in better form for appeal. Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of the pending claims are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks which follow.